

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1-- 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method for updating a services in a communication network containing multiple a plurality of communication components which use and provide the services in the network, comprising:

providing an identical software-controlled service with a plurality of by the components;

identifying at least some of the components providing the identical software-controlled service determining the service provided in the communication network; by the components;

initiating a comparison of information by one of the components interchanging and comparing information to compare about a release information of the software controlling the service by on each of the identified components when providing the identical software-controlled service; the service provided by the components is identical; and

initializing initiating a software update for one component when a the comparison identifies that the release on said one component is releases are different from the release on another of the components.

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the update is performed by sending software is sent from at the component with a more up-to-date release relative to the release on the other of the components. to the component with an earlier release.

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein software with a more up-to-date release is sent from a third communication component providing this software to a the component with an earlier release.

15. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of Claims 0~~, wherein the comparison of release information is repeated at settable time intervals.

16. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of Claims 0~~, wherein the network includes a packet-switching network.

17. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of Claims 0~~, wherein the identical software-controlled service ~~is~~ services are selected from the group consisting of gateway functionality, voicemail server service, and address server service.

18. (currently amended) A method for providing ~~updating~~ a services in a communication network, comprising:

providing ~~the services~~ in the communication network with each of multiple a plurality of communication components, some of the components capable of providing an identical software-controlled service;

enabling the identical software-controlled service in a first of the communication components; and

activating, or updating software pertaining to, the identical service in a second of a second- the communication components by downloading software pertaining to the identical service from the a first communication component to the second communication component.
~~; and updating software pertaining to the service on the second component when the service is not provided by software on the second component.~~

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the service is provided by the first component.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the software pertaining to the service is sent from the first component to the second component.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the first communication component initiates updates of updated software in the second component and in multiple other ~~can be retrieved by further communication components, and their services.~~

24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the first at least one communication component in the communication network has been provided with a most holds software in a respective up-to-date release for operation thereon and for downloading to other components, ready for retrieval for a plurality of services of different types.

25. (currently amended) A method for updating a service in a packet-switching communication network, comprising:

providing an identical software-controlled service on a first servent communication component and a second servent communication component, the components communicating peer-to-peer;

determining the service provided in the communication network by the first and second components;

initiating a comparison by the first of the components interchanging and to compare ~~comparing~~ release information of the software controlling the service on at least the by the first and second components relative to software controlling the service on at least the first component; and when the service is identical; comparing the release information of the first and second components; and

if the releases are different, the method further comprising: identifying a more up-to-date release installed on one of the communication components; selected from the group consisting of the first component and the second component and a earlier component selected from the group consisting of the first component and the second component and

initiating a software update by downloading the more up-to-date release from said one of the components to another component for which release information has been compared, if the earlier component has the hardware capable of running the software of the more up-to-date component.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the step of initiating a software update by downloading the more up-to-date release from said one of the components to another component for which release information has been compared is effected by downloading software is sent from a third server communication component. to the component with an earlier release.

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 0, wherein the comparison of the release information is repeated at settable time intervals.